

ROSS IS DIPLOMATIC.

HE REFUSES TO TALK ABOUT THE EMBEZZLEMENT.

"THE CHARGE MAY BE TRUE."

THIS IS THE STRING UPON WHICH HE HARPS.

Long and Short Men Again Exploit in Chicago—Mrs. Birdson's Acquittal Accused of Her Murder—Other Crimes Reported.

Baton Rouge, La., Dec. 12.—(Special.) The Journal correspondent to-day had an interview with George E. Ross, arrested under the name of J. N. Wallace and held in this city on the charge of having embezzled \$1,500, possibly more, from the Pacific and United States Express Companies at Kansas City.

Ross had just concluded his dinner and was shown a New Orleans paper containing a dispatch from Kansas City outlining the charges against him. He read the story very carefully, in fact, lingered over its words. Then he turned away and handed back the paper, at the same time beginning to walk up and down the hallway quite restlessly. He walked with his eyes on the ground and soon began whistling softly to himself.

"Have you some statement to make to the press?" was asked.

"It would do me no good to talk now," Ross began in reply, all the while paying no apparent attention to anyone about him. "What is the use of my saying anything? The charge might be true or it might not be. You people would not know whether it was true or not. Just let matters go as they are; you will find out all the facts in the case later on, and there will be plenty of time, too, for me to talk of them."

"Where were you before coming to this city?"

"I was in St. Louis," continued Ross, becoming a little more communicative. "I left St. Louis about two weeks ago, arriving here December 4. Coming South, I spent four or five days in Memphis, Tenn., before arriving at Baton Rouge."

During all the time the prisoner was walking up and down the corridor and talking to the newspaper men he was whistling vigorously on a pipe, finally cutting his finger, which bled profusely. At this time Ross showed considerable signs of nervousness, he lost some of his indifferent manner.

Ross says that he does not wish to communicate with any of his friends relative to his trouble. In a general way, he takes the arrest very coolly and the officers have so far been unable to get as much out of him as the reporters. When arrested Ross submitted very meekly and merely asked what was the trouble. The prisoner is now clean shaven. He had a pair of spectacles in his pocket. He wears a percale shirt, necktie and trousers, and a large silver ring with an onyx set.

The Pinkertons did not locate Ross in Baton Rouge and the local officials had no idea of his whereabouts, being guided only by the similarity of the man and the description in the circular sent out by the Pinkerton agency.

A message received to-day says the Kansas City officials will arrive to-morrow.

The readers of the Journal will remember that it announced two weeks ago that Ross was in St. Louis. This statement first appeared in a special telegram from that city, in which it was said that Ross was under surveillance there by a member of the surety company that had bonded him to the express companies. The officials of the express companies indignantly denied that Ross was in St. Louis, and that he was being watched by anyone connected with their companies or the surety company. They professed to have information that he had gone to Mexico, where the Pinkertons were equally as phlegmatic in denying that Ross was in St. Louis. That individual's own statement establishes the truth of the Journal's statement that he was in St. Louis, although he says nothing about being under surveillance. He will doubtless have an interesting story to tell some day about how he got away from St. Louis and was captured by an officer who had only a circular giving a description of Ross issued by the Pinkertons to guide him.

THE FAIR WILL A FORGERY.

New York Experts Also Declare Mrs. Craven's Marriage Contract to Be Spurious.

San Francisco, Dec. 12.—The Chronicle says that Messrs. Ames and Carvalho, the New York experts who came out here in the interests of the Fair children, have made a report in which they declare the pencil will be a forgery.

The deeds to Edward C. Craven of property held by Mrs. Nettie R. Craven, and her contract marriage with the late Senator Fair, are also placed in the same category. When Senator Fair died, he left a net estate valued at from \$20,000.00 to \$40,000.00. In his will he took elaborate precautions to keep the estate intact, and the property was left in the shape of a trust for the benefit of his children. His executors, Messrs. Ames and Carvalho, of New York, Miss Virginia Fair and Charles L. Fair.

The children objected to the trust clause and sought some way to avoid it. When it was that Mrs. Craven, a school teacher, and mother of Margaret Craven, the actress, produced a will of a later date, written with a pencil, in which Senator Fair distributed his estate among his children without any trusts. The heirs were at first disposed to accept this pencil will, but changed their minds when Mrs. Craven produced deeds to valuable property which she said had been left to her by Senator Fair, and also a marriage contract with the late senator. Then it was that the New York experts were brought here to examine the various documents.

ACCUSED OF KILLING HIS AUNT.

Isam Vaughn Charged With the Murder of Mrs. Birdson—Lynch-Ing Narrowly Averted.

Tipton, Mo., Dec. 12.—(Special.) Further developments in the murder of Mrs. Nancy Birdson leave it still a mystery. Isam Vaughn was arrested yesterday evening at California, Mo., charged with the crime, but no positive proof of his guilt has been produced, and he strongly maintains his innocence. He left home the evening previous, about 9 o'clock, saying he was going turkey hunting, and was seen at 9 o'clock at the home of Mr. Pennington, four miles south of the scene of the tragedy. He returned home about 1 o'clock Saturday morning. The clothes he wore have been

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The "tall man" advanced and demanded of the bartender, William Johns, the money in the till. Johns reached beneath the bar and accidentally knocked over a number of glasses, which fell to the floor with a crash. The "tall man" evidently thinking that the bartender was reaching for a pistol, drew a revolver from his overcoat pocket quick as a flash and fired two shots, one of the balls passing through Johns' heart. The men had no trouble in making their escape.

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NEW PEACE MEASURE.

TREATY WITH GREAT BRITAIN IS ALMOST COMPLETED.

SOME OF ITS PROVISIONS.

ALL DIFFERENCES TO BE SETTLED BY ARBITRATION.

No More Dread of a Resort to Arms by the Two English Speaking Nations—Commercial Interests Protected—Most-Ed Questions.

Washington, Dec. 12.—The negotiations between the United States and Great Britain for a treaty of general arbitration, covering all subjects of difference between the two English speaking nations, present and prospective, has advanced to a state of completeness far beyond what the public has had reason to believe. The purpose of Secretary Olney and Sir Julian Pauncefote is to conclude the negotiations within the next three weeks. All of the substantial features of the treaty have been agreed upon. From the present status of the negotiations it is believed the following will be the important terms of the treaty:

First—A term of five years from the date of the exchange of ratification within which the treaty shall be operative.

Second—A court of arbitration of six members, three to be drawn from the judiciary of the United States and three from the judiciary of Great Britain.

Third—The submission to this tribunal of all differences between the two nations, now pending or to arise within the period of five years, this not to include the Behring sea question or the Venezuelan question, now before independent commissions, but to include the question of the boundary between Alaska and British North America.

The completion of this treaty will mark an important epoch in the relations between the two English speaking nations, and in the judgment of those who have been most identified with its consummation it will be the most important document of a peaceful character in the history of their mutual dealings. The president made passing allusion to the subject in his recent message. It had been understood, however, that the main purpose of Mr. Olney was to reach an agreement as to Venezuela, and that having accomplished this, the larger question of arbitrating all differences would require considerable time for its complete development. But the negotiations have proceeded with surprising rapidity, so that those engaged in the work confidently believe it will be fully agreed upon and the signatures of the contracting parties placed to the documents within three weeks.

The treaty will give fully two months for the consideration and ratification of the treaty at the present session of the United States senate, and unless some unexpected obstacle should arise that quarter there is every reason to anticipate that the treaty may be made effective before the close of the present administration.

It is confident that the hope and expectation of those most concerned in the negotiations.

To Remove Vexatious Questions.

Aside from the previously referred to points it can be stated in a general way that the terms of the treaty are such as to "take the heat" out of the vexatious questions which have arisen between the United States and Great Britain. These have been numerous in recent years and some of them have threatened serious consequences.

But those familiar with the exact terms of the negotiations say not one of the causes of friction will remain. Some of the most vexatious questions of the past will be removed from the treaty from the fact that other methods of settlement already have been agreed upon. This is the case with the "Venezuela" question, which by the recent agreement pertaining to that subject alone, is committed to a special court of arbitration. The Behring sea claims are now before a commission, and the Hattin question has been similarly disposed of, and considering them all, it is said by those familiar with the treaty that the Alaskan boundary will be the only pending controversy likely to come within the scope of the new treaty.

Will Guard Against Ruptures.

The main purpose of the treaty, however, is to guard against the possibility of a rupture, and in this the negotiators believe the terms of the instrument will be such as to avoid all possibility of international conflict for the future.

This is regarded as the main achievement. It is one said to be peculiarly advantageous to the commercial interests of both countries, assuring them against the possibility of a rupture, and in this the negotiators believe the terms of the instrument will be such as to avoid all possibility of international conflict for the future.

Child Burned to Death.

Pond Creek, O. T., Dec. 12.—Near Lamont, in the western part of this county, a 3-year-old daughter of John Cross played with the crew of the Norwegian bark Palermo, which was abandoned in a waterlogged and sinking condition. The Palermo, Captain Larsen, sailed from St. Thomas, Canada, November 7, for Limerick.

Candle Factory Burns.

Cleveland, O., Dec. 12.—The three story brick candle factory of the Standard Oil Company, on James street, was destroyed by fire this afternoon. The loss on the building and stock was about \$50,000 and the insurance is only \$30,000.

Shot at a Barn Raising.

Clifton, O. T., Dec. 12.—At a barn raising last night the gun of a party of the party, Charles Jeffrey, was fatally shot by the accidental discharge of a gun.

Mother and Daughter Asphyxiated.

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 12.—Mrs. Catherine Corbett, 70, and her daughter, Mary, 40 years of age, were found dead in their room at the Hotel Hamilton. The cause of death was asphyxiation by gas from a gas stove.

Crusade Against Saloons.

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 12.—To-day witnessed the beginning of the anti-saloon league movement in Detroit. A large number of the principal churches and many entered the movement. It is intended to prosecute the work of educating public sentiment, securing a vote upon the question of local option, enforcing the present liquor laws and securing more stringent liquor legislation throughout the state.

Many in Relief Work.

London, Dec. 12.—According to a Calcutta dispatch to the Times, the official weather forecast says that the winter rains will be held, but no ball. Even a slight excess in upper India and Rangoon. Over 20,000 people are on the relief work in upper Burma, where the scarcity is widespread. Fortunately, the paddy crop is now ripening in the lower province. It is estimated 1,500,000 tons of rice are available for export.</